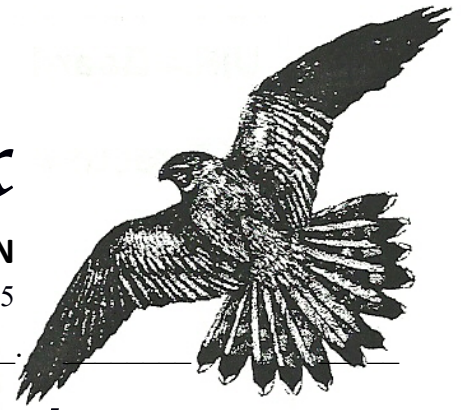


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

January 2025 • Vol. XXXI, Issue 5



February UIRA Programming

Money Management for Seniors



Clark Buelt

Tuesday, February 11, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC) and via Zoom. *Expect the Zoom link on Sunday, February 9. If you lose the link, contact Deb Cobb, deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu. A light lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Deb Cobb by Saturday, February 8 to attend lunch.*

Clark Buelt, wealth management advisor with TIAA Financial Services, will talk with us about financial decisions retirees make, some of the options open to us, and considerations that might influence our choices. He will draw on his experience working with university retirees, but his remarks will also have a general application. There will be time for questions toward the end of the presentation. Clark would also welcome questions submitted in advance. Please direct such

questions to Lois Cox at lois-cox@uiowa.edu.

Clark Buelt grew up on an Iowa farm and is a graduate of Iowa State University. He has worked in the financial planning industry for almost 30 years in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area. He has been with TIAA for about 10 years and works in the Coralville office at Iowa River Landing. At TIAA, he assists clients with investment allocation, retirement income planning, and estate planning. In helping clients to develop retirement strategies, he uses a wide array of investments including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and annuities. His goal is to help clients find clarity and build confidence in retirement.

Coming Attractions

The Program Planning Committee is hard at work on some fun and informative programs (see below). Look for more details in future issues of *The Gray Hawk*.

- **Theater in the Corridor** with Adam Knight, producing artistic director of Riverside Theater (Tuesday, March 11)
- **Spring Campus Building Update and Bus Tour** with Senior Vice President of Finance and Operations Rod Lehnertz (Tuesday, April 8)
- **Campus Tree Tour** with Urban Forest Supervisor Andy Dahl (Tuesday, May 13)
- **Associate Athletic Director for Compliance Lyla Clerry** (Date TBD)
- **UIRA 30th Anniversary Celebration**

Explorers Walking Group

To all hearty Explorers (and anyone else who would like to join us), we'll attempt to walk outside this month, so pull out the layers of clothing and come along! Please RSVP to attend by emailing Lesanne Fliehler, lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu. Details about the walk will be emailed to registrants a day or two in advance. If the weather isn't conducive, look for an email about 9:00 a.m. on January 14 with an alternative location.

■ **January 14** (Tuesday), 10:00 a.m., Tom Harkin Trailhead, 719 Camp Cardinal Blvd., Coralville

From UIRA President Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Greetings for the New Year

Happy New Year! As we bid farewell to the past and welcome the future, the UIRA looks forward to an exciting line-up of speakers and activities in the coming year. You are invited to accompany us on this path toward creating meaningful connections and enjoying engaging events. New adventures are yet to be revealed.

We are delighted to announce that we will commemorate our 30th anniversary in 2025. Please watch for emails as plans are drawn up for a memorable celebration. You may be asked to share a memory from a previous significant period in our history if you have been with us for a while. Or, if you are new to the organization, we encourage you to dive in and join us as we honor our journey. You are a treasured member of our retirement community, and we encourage you to create even more wonderful memories as we all celebrate together.

Nominate a Member for UIRA's Community Service or Volunteer Service Award

Nomination Criteria:

- A nominee must be a UIRA member and must have been retired for a period of at least two (2) years.
- The awards are based on outstanding service carried out since retirement. Activities prior to retirement are not considered.
- Volunteer service may include a wide range of activities that make a positive impact.
- Recipients must attend the annual June meeting to accept the award.

Any UIRA member may submit a nomination, including nominating themselves. Please include a one-page letter describing how the nominee has successfully contributed through involvement in one or more activities, and a one-page biography, which includes the nominee's name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.

Nominations are due Wednesday, March 5, 2025, to the Awards Committee via my email address: van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.

Gray Hawk Writers

This month, we share one of the pieces written by a member of the Gray Hawk Writers special interest group. Want to join the group? Visit as a guest—you may decide to join! Contact Jennifer Wohn at lwsbws@gmail.com.

Ginkgo Tree at the Train Station

By Omer Sanan

A dull sun is trying to shine through the haze on this windy late October day. The pear tree, still fully clad, convulses and then sways in repose for a moment its green leaves still shivering. The honey locust is almost naked. A few yellow boughs hang onto the intricate dark branches as they claw the sky. I sit down and let the colors swoop down over my memories as I inhale the smell of fall in my seventy-fifth year.

A train blows its horn and it takes me to the crowded platform of the old train station in my hometown of Balikesir, Turkey on the day I was leaving to go to university in Ankara.

The red and yellow face of the diesel locomotive appears under the overpass where several children excitedly watch the approaching snarling locomotive until it passes under them and they run to the other side looking down on top of it as it slowly snakes its way to the station. For a moment I wish I were with them, smelling the fumes of the gurgling behemoth. I have been part of that crowd; packs of boys arm in arm, wandering the streets of the town after school, chasing groups of girls, horsing around, snickering, laughing, and arguing about our favorite soccer teams and players. We often would pass through the train station, gawking, clowning, and trying to catch a glimpse of a girl on the train, herself gazing out to relieve her boredom.

Swish and squill of brakes and whistle of the station master jolts the crowd. People carrying suitcases or holding tightly the hands of their children wrestle their way toward one of the open doors of the train. They yield to me as I walk to the train, some are patting me on the back wishing me good luck, some calling me “Ayi,” meaning bear, my nickname. I climb the steps, turn around and reach down to grasp the handle of my suitcase from my father. I look down the train car for a seat, and spot one. I pull down the window and lean outside. My parents and brother find me and gather under the window. My mother hands me a box of chocolate covered orange peels to snack on. My father wipes away a tear. I hear a whistle and loud blast of the horn.

Slowly the waving crowd and the platform starts gliding away. I hear the rocking and rumble of switches, the ding-ding bells of crossings as we turn south and leave the town behind. The train speeds through the fertile plain, startled starlings perched on telegraph lines soar; wind dries my tears; yellow and red leaves burst into the air as we pass.

Welcome, New Members!

Jane Ruplinger, Radiology, UI Health Care

Mary Greer, Patient Access Center, UI Health Care

IOWA

UI Retirees Association Board of Directors 2024–2025 (year term on board expires)

Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash	President (2026) van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu
Lois Cox	President-Elect (2027) lois-cox@uiowa.edu
Deb Cobb	Past President (2025)
Cathy Wilcox	Secretary (2027)
Todd Stewart	Treasurer (2027)
Diana Lundell	Director and Editor, <i>The Gray Hawk</i> (2026)
Rachel Stewart	Director and Webmaster (2027)
Michael Barron	Director (2026)
Chris Peterson Brus	Director (2025)
Jean Florman	Director (2026)
Mike Hovland	Director (2025)
Cindy Seyfer	Director (2027)
Bernard Sorofman	EFC representative (ex-officio)

The UI Retirees Association maintains a continuous connection to the University of Iowa and supports the interests and welfare of retired University of Iowa faculty and staff members.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 1:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are hybrid (in person at USB and via Zoom).

Contact Info: UI Retirees Association
University Services Building
1 W. Prentiss Street, Iowa City, IA 52240

[Email](#)

[Website](#)